

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 15244

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT,UK

SUBJECT: LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE: PORTUGAL

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REF: LONDON 14826 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST LEADER MARIO SOARES ADDRESSED CONFERENCE AS FRATERNAL DELEGATE AND RECEIVED WARM WELCOME. FOLLOWING REPLY BY ALEC KITSON, CONFERENCE DEBATED AND OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVED NEC BACKED RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY (PSP) FOR ITS ELECTORAL SUCCESS AND RECORDING "STRONGEST ADMIRATION AND SUPPORT" FOR PSP AND SOARES. END SUMMARY.

1. PSP GENERAL SECRETARY MARIO SOARES ADDRESSED LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2. CONVEYING FRATERNAL GREETING FROM PSP AND REPORTING ON DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL, SOARES ASSERTED THAT RECENT POLLS INDICATE PSP WOULD WIN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IF ELECTIONS WERE HELD TODAY. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT SIXTH REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT COALITION REPRESENTED ONLY WAY IN WHICH PORTUGAL COULD SOLVE ITS PROBLEMS. TURNING TO RECENT LABOR PARTY CRITICISM OF HIM AND OF PSP, SOARES NOTED THAT PSP STRATEGY WAS OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD AND OFFERED TO MEET WITH LABOR LEFT-WINGERS TO "EXPLAIN REALITY". PSP, HE SAID, HAS ALWAYS BEEN FAITHFUL TO ITS PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDES FREEDOM, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND DIRECT DEMOCRACY, AND HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN ITS PRINCIPLES IN DIFFICULT SITUATION AND WITHOUT BLOODSHED. HE RECEIVED A STANDING OVATION. NEC LEFT-WINGER ALEC KITSON THANKED SOARES FOR ATTENDING CONFERENCE. HE LIKENED CURRENT SITUATION IN PORTUGAL TO THAT IN CHILE BEFORE FALL OF ALLENDE AND STRESSED THAT HISTORY WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO REPEAT ITSELF.

2. ON OCCASION OF FRATERNAL EXCHANGE, CONFERENCE TURNED TO COMPOSITE RESOLUTION ON PORTUGAL WHICH: EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE LOSS OF DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS IN PORTUGAL; CONGRATULATED PSP FOR ITS ELECTORAL SUCCESS; NOTED LACK OF COMMUNIST SUCCESS; CALLED ON PORTUGUESE MILITARY TO CEDE POWER TO DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT; AND RECORDED "ITS STRONGEST ADMIRATION AND SUPPORT FOR... PSP AND ITS LEADER MARIO SOARES" (TEXT FOLLOWS). MOST SPEAKERS FROM FLOOR OPPOSED RESOLUTION. FOLLOWING JUDITH HART/AUDREY WISE ARGUMENT THAT REAL DANGER TO DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL COMES FROM RIGHT AND QUESTIONING SOARES' CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIALS AS SOCIALIST, FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN SPOKE ON BEHALF NEC, URGING CONFERENCE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION. CALLAGHAN SCORED DELEGATES WHO SPOKE AGAINST RESOLUTION, DEFENDING SOARES' RECORD AND HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AND THOSE OF PSP. HE THEN SUGGESTED "MODEST RETICENCE" ON PART OF THOSE WHO, HAVING NO UNDERSTANDING OF PORTUGAL, PRETEND TO TELL HIM AND PSP HOW THEY SHOULD ACHIEVE "DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM" IN THAT COUNTRY. RESOLUTION WAS ENDORSED

OVERWHELMINGLY ON SHOW OF HANDS.

3. COMMENT: FCO IS MAKING STRONG POINT THAT SOARES IS
PARTY VISITOR AND, BECAUSE HE CURRENTLY HOLDS NO GOVER-
NMENT POSITION, NOT AN OFFICIAL ONE. SOARES WILL APPEAR
IN LONDON TODAY (OCT 3), HOWEVER, AS GUEST OF HONOR AT
LUNCHEON SPONSORED BY CATHOLIC INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIO-
NAL RELATIONS.
SPIERS

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NNN

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